

Syllabus: **American Sign Language, 2011 - 2012**

Teacher: Ms. Amy L. Cohen

Conference Time: **Make an appointment** to meet me at lunch or after school in room 209-B.

GOALS: After completing a year of studying ASL, you will...

- ◆ enhance your understanding of grammar of both English and ASL;
- ◆ be able to have real conversations with Deaf friends and classmates;
- ◆ enhance your knowledge about Deaf Culture;
- ◆ use and improve your English reading and writing skills.



CLASS ACTIVITIES: Your teacher will help you learn signs. Then, you will create and understand sentences and have many opportunities to use new language skills. You will learn about ASL, Deaf people and Deaf culture by watching videos, listening to guest speakers and discussing readings in your textbook, newspaper articles and magazine stories. You will write book reports and prepare research projects. You will be informed about community activities where you could use ASL skills. Many assignments will be posted on our class wiki space page.

MATERIALS: a **folder with pockets** or notebook for saving readings; a **composition book** to use as a class journal (you may staple readings in your composition book); **pens** and pencils. *Your teacher does not lend materials.* Please bring a **box of tissues** or a **bottle of hand sanitizer** for classmates to share.

TEXTBOOK: **A Basic Course in American Sign Language** by Humphries, Padden and O'Rourke, second edition. Put a book cover on your book. (Are you serious about ASL? Consider purchasing your own copy of this book.)

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is a significant part of your final grade. ***There is no way to make up for class absences.*** Class activities offer you the main opportunity to master your developing skills in understanding and expression. Make coming to every class a priority. No one is dismissed to use bathrooms or to go to lockers.

REQUIRED WRITTEN WORK: During the year, you will be assigned to write about some of these experiences:

- ◆ conversations with Deaf friends during lunch or after school;
- ◆ observations of ASL interpreters;
- ◆ using a TDD and/or video or audio relay service to call Deaf friends on the telephone;
- ◆ reading literature and non-fiction relating to Deaf culture;
- ◆ attending a Deaf community social activity.

All major written projects are to be typed. If you have no computer at home, make an appointment to use a computer in the library writing lab or the student services center. Students may make appointments to use class computers during lunch periods or after school. All major projects will be graded for content, accuracy and English mechanics.

CLASS TESTS, MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS: All students --including seniors-- take final exams. You will demonstrate your mastery of ASL by telling stories and making presentations, asking and answering questions, and translating ASL into written English. You will respond to essay questions about Deaf culture facts and your own experiences in communicating with Deaf people.

CLASS RULES:

- ◆ You are expected to be polite at all times.
- ◆ Bring all class materials. I do not lend pencils and paper.
- ◆ Use the bathroom between classes. **You may not leave the room for any reason.** Two emergencies are permitted during the year.

✂ *cut here and return*

We read the syllabus for ASL; we discussed the course requirements and we support class rules.

(student's signature)

(date)

(parent's/guardian's signature)

(date)

